

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

180002304

QA-8

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR N. SE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

THOMAS HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1.8 miles northeast of Ruthsburg on the north side of  
Maryland Route 304

CITY, TOWN

Ruthsburg

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

CODE

035

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Warren J. Banse and Albert Banse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 111, Route 5

CITY, TOWN

Williamstown

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey 08094

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Thomas House is located on the northwest side of Maryland Route 304, approximately 1.8 miles northeast of Ruthsburg, in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

The Thomas House is distinguished by a stepped, two-part plan designed to represent two separate building phases and to have the appearance of a Federal townhouse with a lower, two-story wing. Based on architectural and decorative elements supplemented by family and property records, the house appears to have been built between 1798 and 1821.

The main or larger section of the two parts is two-story high and three bays wide. The lower north section is also of two stories and has two bays, but its windows are of smaller dimensions and are positioned lower than those of the main block. Four chimneys protrude from the gable roof of the main block, two on each end. The northwest chimney is the largest of the four and carries the flues for three fireplaces in the lower, north portion of the house. The deep, semi-circular arched entrance doorway is centered on the facade and opens into a hallway extending the full depth of the house. It has a molded pilastered surround with paneled reveals and a traceried fanlight over a six-panel door. The windows are of six-over-nine sash on the main block and six-over-six sash on the lower part. All have flat arches of splayed stretcher brick, wood sills, and once had exterior blinds. The roof cornice of the main portion is decorated with carved modillion blocks and a dentiled bedmolding and has gable returns. Apparently in an effort to make the lower part appear later, or to accentuate the main block, its cornice has only ogee crown and bedmoldings. Both parts of the house are of brick construction, Flemish bond on the west (facade) and south (approach) sides and common bond on the other two. The house stands on flush, common bond foundation walls that enclose a full cellar beneath the main block and a half-cellar beneath the lower section. The cellar rooms are lighted by four windows on the west front and two windows on the east side, all aligned with the windows above.

The south end of the Thomas House is two bays wide on the two main floor levels and the attic. The north end shows an interesting combination of roof lines: that of the main block, the gable roof of the one-room deep lower section, and, behind this, the lean-to roof of the one-story kitchen. The kitchen, also part of the original plan, has, in the past several years, suffered extensive deterioration. The roof and north end wall have collapsed and the east side wall is bulged and broken in several areas. Its reconstruction is planned by the present owners as part of the restoration of the house.

The entrance door on the west front, for which a brick stoop and steps is planned, opens into a center stair hall (see plan). The stair rises along the north wall from west to east at the rear of the hall and has delicately turned posts, a molded rail and scrolled stepends. (At

see continuation sheet #1

**B SIGNIFICANCE**

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

1798-1821

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built between 1798 and 1821 by a long-established Eastern Shore family, the Thomas House is a Federal brick dwelling whose style and size are indicative of the economic security of its builders and the architectural taste of the time.

The first members of the Thomas family arrived in Maryland in the last quarter of the seventeenth century. The family grew quite large on the Eastern Shore, with branches in Talbot, Kent, and Queen Anne's Counties.

Thomas Thomas, of the third generation to be born in Maryland, was a planter resident in Queen Anne's County. In 1755 he received a patented certificate for part of a tract called "Winfield" containing 297.5 acres. On this property were twelve cultivated acres, "one new framed Dwelling house, 20 by 16 foott, one old Rotton Log house-one old milk house, 8 by 8 foott, Eight apple trees, Eleven Cherry trees, one peach tree, and 370 panels of old Rotton fence." Three years later, Thomas was granted another certificate for 275 more acres of Winfield (the original patent having been for 1000 acres). All of this land was apparently resurveyed before 1769 when Thomas sold sixty-three acres of "Winfield Corrected" to William Yoe.<sup>1</sup>

Thomas died in 1770, leaving several parts of "Winfield" and "Winfield resurveyed" to his sons. To James Thomas he devised his "dwelling plantation . . . being part of a tract . . . called Winfield and also all that part of a tract . . . called Winfield resurveyed which stands on the north side of the road that leads from Queens Town to Choptank Bridge . . . ." His son Thomas received the part of the latter tract to the south of the road which, since he was farming in Carolina, he sold to his brother James, a planter in Queen Anne's County, in the following year.<sup>2</sup>

James Thomas died in 1807, leaving 125 acres of "Winfield" and "Winfield Corrected" to his son James. The latter sold the property of 150 acres six years later to Dr. John Thomas. Dr. Thomas died before 1821 when his wife Elizabeth wrote a will in which she mentioned the "arable or cleared land purchased of James Thomas now deceased," which was left to her son, John Baynard Thomas, by his father. John B. Thomas acquired 106 acres more of "Winfield" from the trustee of the real estate

see continuation sheet #2

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

PRIMARY SOURCES at the Hall of Records, Annapolis and the Queen Anne's County Courthouse, Centreville, Maryland.

First Census of the United States, 1790, Queen Anne's County, Maryland.  
 Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, Tuckahoe Hundred, Queen Anne's County.  
 Land Records and Patented Certificates, Queen Anne's County.  
 Probate Records of Queen Anne's County. see continuation sheet #3

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	4, 1, 9	1, 5, 0	4, 3, 1, 8	6, 2, 0	B	1, 8	4, 1, 9	3, 2, 0	4, 3, 1, 8	8, 3, 0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C	1, 8	4, 1, 9	5, 6, 0	4, 3, 1, 8	6, 6, 0	D	1, 8	4, 1, 9	3, 8, 0	4, 3, 1, 8	4, 4, 0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural Historian pmj  
 Pamela M. James, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Society DATE July 1975

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**Thomas House  
Queen Anne's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

## Description, continued

one time, probably about 1900, the stair area was separated from the hall by a frame partition. The wall has since been removed). The enframing of the front entrance has a molded, crosseted surround with fluted strapwork and, framing the fanlight, imposts and a molded keystone.

On the south side of the hall are two rooms of near equal size. The southwest parlor has deep, full height reveals at the windows with hidden blinds and under-window panels. There are also molded baseboards and chairrails. The mantel has a blocked frieze, fluted dentils under the cornice shelf, and roped moldings around the fireplace opening. The southeast chamber is less elegantly treated and has only a dentiled band on the mantel and, flanking the mantel on one side, a paneled full height cupboard. In both rooms and the hall there are crosseted surrounds framing the windows and doors. A door connecting the two parlors, however, is a circa 1900 introduction, and its surround is unornamented.

On the north side of the hall are two rooms. The northwest room, originally the dining room and two steps lower than the hall, has a paneled fireplace wall, an enclosed stair in the southeast corner, and crosseted surrounds on the windows and doors. On the east side of this room is the kitchen, one-story high and three steps lower than the dining room. The kitchen has a large fireplace opening on its south wall with a shallow closet on its east side. It appears that this closet was once a doorway opening onto a short flight of steps down to the cellar of the main block. The opening has been bricked over for many years. There is a partially enclosed flight of steps to the cellar in the southeast corner of the kitchen. The kitchen chimney base and stack is built on the outside end of the main block and curves up along the wall to project above the roof line near the gable peak.

On the second floor of the house there are three bedchambers, one over each of the principal first floor rooms. The head of the stair hall is partitioned off to provide for a small fourth room. The woodwork in these rooms is similar in profile to that of the first floor but much simpler in its manner of execution. Two interesting features, however, exist. One is the window lighting the stair landing between the first and second floor levels. Its sill is "supported" by two ogee-shaped brackets with drops. Another is the use of a paneled gate and rail framing the stairwell in the northwest bedchamber.

continued

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Thomas House  
Queen Anne's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7, 8 PAGE 2

## Description, continued

The basement of the Thomas House has four rooms. That part of the basement beneath the main block follows the same room configuration as the first floor and has brick floors and recessed arches in the chimney bases. The basement area beneath the first floor southeast room originally housed the winter kitchen and has an expansive fireplace opening.

## Significance, continued

of Richard Legg in 1842. The dwelling now called the Thomas House is mentioned in 1879 (and until at least 1967) as standing on the "Home Farm of the late John B. Thomas," comprised of parts of "Hawkins Pharsalia," "Thomas' Addition," and "Winfield."<sup>3</sup>

The Thomas House is not on the Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798 for Queen Anne's County. The "Winfield" tracts are listed on the assessment in Tuckahoe Hundred under the ownership of James Thomas and a Dr. John Thomas. There is a house on each of their properties, but both are 1 1/2-story frame buildings.<sup>4</sup> The Thomas House was thus built after 1798, either by James Thomas, Sr., between 1798 and 1807; James Thomas, Jr., between 1807 and 1813; or (Dr.) John Thomas, between 1813 and 1821.

The Thomases were typical members of Tidewater Maryland's eighteenth and early nineteenth century society. All of the men mentioned above were planters, with the possible exception of Dr. John Thomas, although it is likely that he farmed also. James Thomas held four slaves according to the 1790 federal census, which was about the average number for that half of the population who owned slaves. Thomas' home, as described in the 1798 tax assessment, was a framed dwelling with two brick chimneys, 34' X 18', with three windows, valued at \$200. This was again an average sized house for a person of his economic position, i.e., although by no means wealthy, comfortable and better off than the majority of planters at the time.

From this economic background came, with the economic stabilization after the formation of the new nation, the means and desire to build a dwelling such as the Thomas House. Quite a larger building than the frame one of the eighteenth century, it is also constructed of the more durable building material of brick. Its style is that of a Federal townhouse popular in the towns and cities of that day, reflecting an effort on the part of its builder to be fashionable.

continued

Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Thomas House  
Queen Anne's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8, 9 PAGE 3

## Significance, continued

This latter fact may be one clue pointing to Dr. John Thomas as the builder of the house. A well-known man in the county from the third quarter of the eighteenth century, he owned several lots in Centreville and may have desired to move to a country home whose style would reflect his position.

John B. Thomas, mid-nineteenth century occupant of the house, was also an active resident of Queen Anne's County. He was a trustee of the county almshouse, an inspector of primary schools, a commissioner for a railroad to be built from Queen Anne's to Cecil County, and a commissioner for the organization of a bank in Centreville. He also served several terms in the state legislature and was a member of the county committee appointed to take charge in the secession crisis of 1861.<sup>5</sup> The Thomas House property remained in his family until 1928.

<sup>1</sup>Patented Certificates 1167 and 1169, Queen Anne's County Deed RT H/315.

<sup>2</sup>Queen Anne's County Will WHN 2/325.

<sup>3</sup>Queen Anne's County Wills WHN 4/315 and TCE 2/61 and Queen Anne's County Deeds JB 2/144, JT 2/369, JT 2/371, JT 2/372, JT 3/500, JW 9/212, JEG 2/434, BHT 8/391, TSP 70/62, and CWC 28/446.

<sup>4</sup>Federal Direct Tax Assessment for 1798, Tuckahoe Hundred, Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

<sup>5</sup>Frederic Emory, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, . . . (Reprint of 1886 ed.; Baltimore, Maryland: Maryland Historical Society, 1950).

## Bibliographical References, continued

## SECONDARY SOURCES

Emory, Frederic. Queen Anne's County, Maryland, Its Early History and Development. Reprint of 1886-1887 ed. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

continued

Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Thomas House  
Queen Anne's County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

Bibliographical References, continued

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland.  
Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934.

Spencer, Richard Henry. Thomas Family of Talbot County, Maryland, and  
Allied Families. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co., 1914.

Thomas, Lawrence Buckley, D.D. The Thomas Book . . . . New York:  
Henry T. Thomas Co., 1896.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

Thomas House  
Queen Anne's County  
Maryland

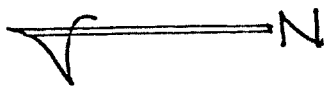
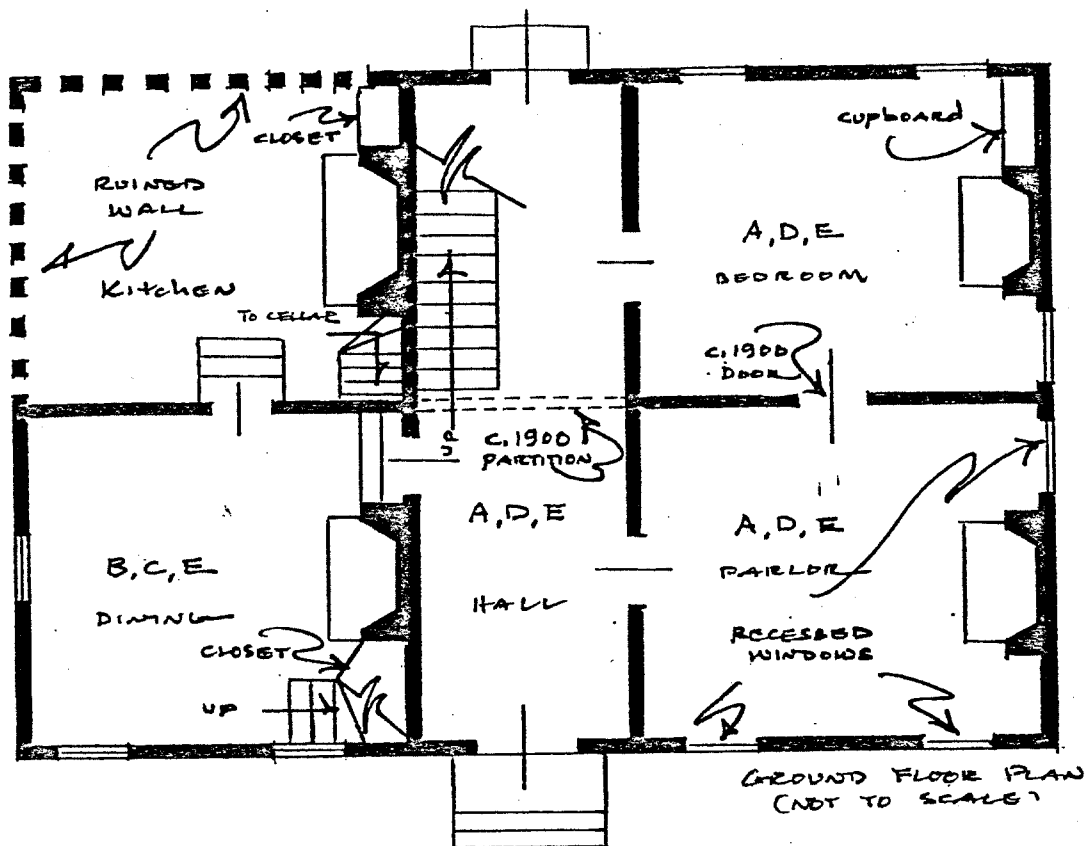
CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 5

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

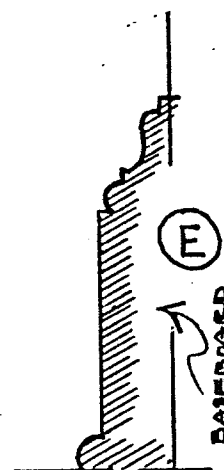
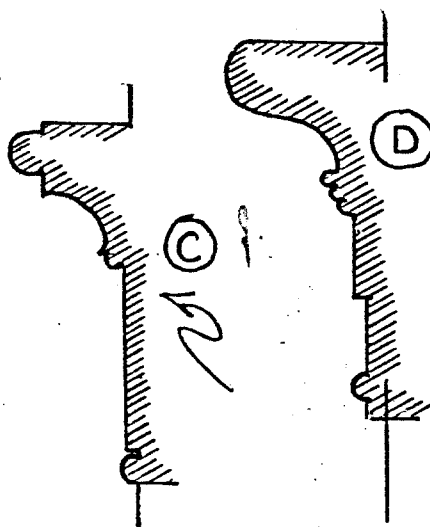
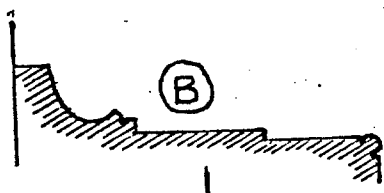
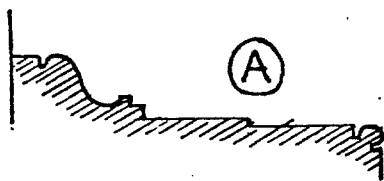
The Thomas House is a substantial house of the Federal period, solidly and well built. It has what is essentially a four-square plan in a form that successfully combines a townhouse with rural vernacular forms. The woodwork on both exterior and interior is of good quality, finely executed. The exterior cornice work is particularly good and largely intact. The interior woodwork is about 95% intact, the mantels, paneled recesses, and stair being among the finer details. A unique feature in the dining room chamber is a waist-high door in front of the enclosed stair; this has not been found in any other Eastern Shore building to date.

Two barns also stand on this property. One is of early 19th century date of hewn frame, the other is a shed of later date. Both are in poor repair.

MOB:pmj  
2/24/76



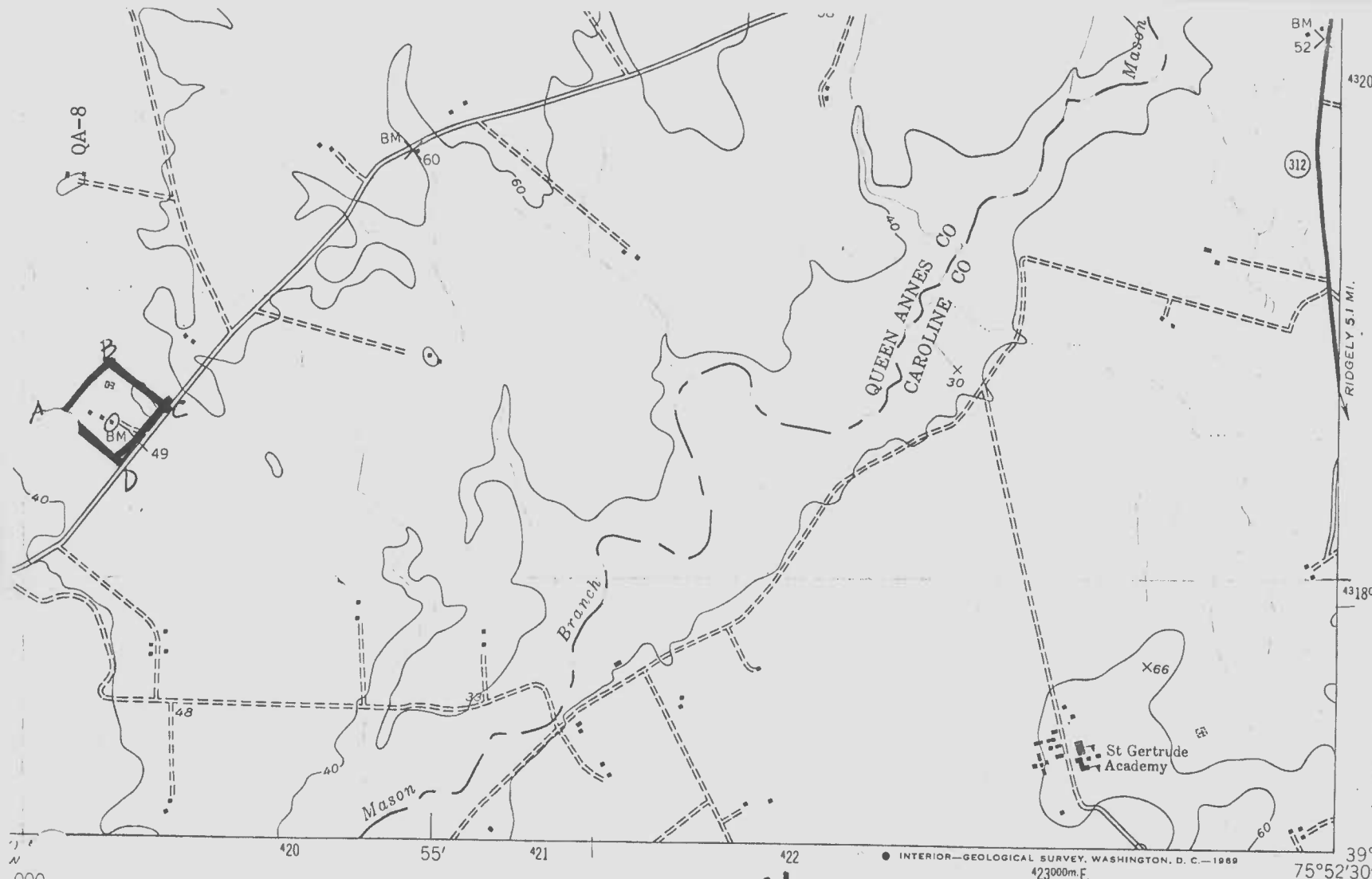
MOLDING PROFILES:  
(NOT TO SCALE)



# THE THOMAS HOUSE

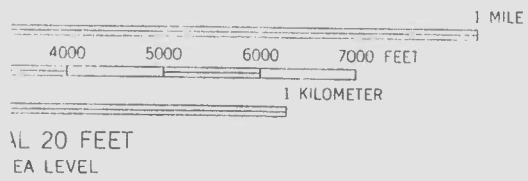
RUTHSBURG VIC., QUEEN ANNE COUNTY, MARYLAND

DRWONE 7/75



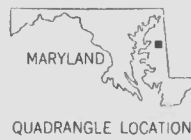
Thomas House

UTM References  
 A 18/419150/4318620  
 B 18/419320/4318830  
 C 18/419560/4318660  
 D 18/419380/4318440



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----
		State Route	○



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

PRICE, MD.  
 SW/4 BARCLAY 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3900—W7552.5/7.5

1944

AMS 5862 III SW—SERIES V833

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 ADDITIONAL SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QA-8  
Thomas House  
Ruthsburg vicinity  
Private

circa 1798-1821

Dating to the early 19th century, the Thomas House is a large brick Federal dwelling whose style and size are indicative of the economic security of its builders and the architectural taste of the time. It was most likely constructed by Dr. John Thomas, who purchased the property from another member of the family in 1813 and lived here until his death in 1821.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Thomas House

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER 1.8 miles northeast of Ruthsburg on the north side of  
Maryland Route 304

CITY, TOWN

Ruthsburg

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Mr. and Mrs. Warren J. Banse and Albert Banse  
Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 111, Route 5

CITY, TOWN

Williamstown

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

New Jersey 08094

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

QA-8

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas House is located on the northwest side of Maryland Route 304, approximately 1.8 miles northeast of Ruthsburg, in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

The Thomas House is distinguished by a stepped, two-part plan designed to represent two separate building phases and to have the appearance of a Federal townhouse with a lower, two-story wing. Based on architectural and decorative elements supplemented by family and property records, the house appears to have been built between 1798 and 1821.

The main or larger section of the two parts is two-stories high and three bays wide. The lower north section is also of two stories and has two bays, but its windows are of smaller dimensions and are positioned lower than those of the main block. Four chimneys protrude from the gable roof of the main block, two on each end. The northwest chimney is the largest of the four and carries the flues for three fireplaces in the lower, north portion of the house. The deep, semi-circular arched entrance doorway is centered on the facade

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

and opens into a hallway extending the full depth of the house. It has a molded pilastered surround with paneled reveals and a traceried fanlight over a six-panel door. The windows are of six-over-nine sash on the main block and six-over-six sash on the lower part. All have flat arches of splayed stretcher brick, wood sills, and once had exterior blinds. The roof cornice of the main portion is decorated with carved modillion blocks and a dentiled bedmolding and has gable returns. Apparently in an effort to make the lower part appear later, or to accentuate the main block, its cornice has only ogee crown and bedmoldings. Both parts of the house are of brick construction, Flemish bond on the west (facade) and south (approach) sides and common bond on the other two. The house stands on flush, common bond foundation walls that enclose a full cellar beneath the main block and a half-cellar beneath the lower section. The cellar rooms are lighted by four windows on the west front and two windows on the east side, all aligned with the windows above.

The south end of the Thomas House is two bays wide on the two main floor levels and the attic. The north end shows an interesting combination of roof lines:

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

that of the main block, the gable roof of the one-room deep lower section, and, behind this, the lean-to roof of the one-story kitchen. The kitchen, also part of the original plan, has, in the past several years, suffered extensive deterioration. The roof and north end wall have collapsed and the east side wall is bulged and broken in several areas. Its reconstruction is planned by the present owners as part of the restoration of the house.

The entrance door on the west front, for which a brick stoop and steps is planned, opens into a center stair hall (see plan). The stair rises along the north wall from west to east at the rear of the hall and has delicately turned posts, a molded rail and scrolled stepends. (At one time, probably about 1900, the stair area was separated from the hall by a frame partition. The wall has since been removed). The enframing of the front entrance has a molded, crosseted surround with fluted strapwork and, framing the fanlight, imposts and a molded keystone.

On the south side of the hall are two rooms of near equal size. The southwest parlor has deep, full height reveals at the windows with hidden blinds and



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

under-window panels. There are also molded baseboards and chairrails. The mantel has a blocked frieze, fluted dentils under the cornice shelf, and roped moldings around the fireplace opening. The southeast chamber is less elegantly treated and has only a dentiled band on the mantel and, flanking the mantel on one side, a paneled full height cupboard. In both rooms and the hall there are crosseted surrounds framing the windows and doors. A door connecting the two parlors, however, is a circa 1900 introduction, and its surround is unornamented.

On the north side of the hall are two rooms. The northwest room, originally the dining room and two steps lower than the hall, has a paneled fireplace wall, an enclosed stair in the southeast corner, and crosseted surrounds on the windows and doors. On the east side of this room is the kitchen, one-story high and three steps lower than the dining room. The kitchen has a large fireplace opening on its south wall with a shallow closet on its east side. It appears that this closet was once a doorway opening onto a short flight of steps down to the cellar of the main block. The opening has been bricked over for many years. There is a partially enclosed flight of steps to the cellar in the southeast

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

corner of the kitchen. The kitchen chimney base and stack is built on the outside end of the main block and curves up along the wall to project above the roof line near the gable peak.

On the second floor of the house there are three bedchambers, one over each of the principal first floor rooms. The head of the stair hall is partitioned off to provide for a small fourth room. The woodwork in these rooms is similar in profile to that of the first floor but much simpler in its manner of execution. Two interesting features, however, exist. One is the window lighting the stair landing between the first and second floor levels. Its sill is "supported" by two ogee-shaped brackets with drops. Another is the use of a paneled gate and rail framing the stairwell in the northwest bedchamber.

The basement of the Thomas House has four rooms. That part of the basement beneath the main block follows the same room configuration as the first floor and has brick floors and recessed arches in the chimney bases. The basement area beneath the first floor southeast room originally housed the winter kitchen and has an expansive fireplace opening.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1798-1821

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built between 1798 and 1821 by a long-established Eastern Shore family, the Thomas House is a Federal brick dwelling whose style and size are indicative of the economic security of its builders and the architectural taste of the time.

The first members of the Thomas family arrived in Maryland in the last quarter of the seventeenth century. The family grew quite large on the Eastern Shore, with branches in Talbot, Kent, and Queen Anne's Counties.

Thomas Thomas, of the third generation to be born in Maryland, was a planter resident in Queen Anne's County. In 1755 he received a patented certificate for part of a tract called "Winfield" containing 297.5 acres. On this property were twelve cultivated acres, "one new framed Dwelling house, 20 by 16 foott, one old Rotton Log house-one old milk house, 8 by 8 foott,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eight apple trees, Eleven Cherry trees, one peach tree, and 370 panels of old Rotton fence." Three years later, Thomas was granted another certificate for 275 more acres of Winfield (the original patent having been for 1000 acres). All of this land was apparently resurveyed before 1769 when Thomas sold sixty-three acres of "Winfield Corrected" to William Yoe. (1)

Thomas died in 1770, leaving several parts of "Winfield" and "Winfield resurveyed" to his sons. To James Thomas he devised his "dwelling plantation...being part of a tract...called Winfield and also all that part of a tract...called Winfield resurveyed which stands on the north side of the road that leads from Queens Town to Choptank Bridge..." His son Thomas received the part of the latter tract to the south of the road which, since he was farming in Carolina, he sold to his brother James, a planter in Queen Anne's County, in the following year. (2)

James Thomas died in 1807, leaving 125 acres of "Winfield" and "Winfield Corrected" to his son James. The latter sold the property of 150 acres six years later to Dr. John Thomas. Dr. Thomas died before 1821 when his wife Elizabeth wrote a will in which she mentioned

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

the "arable or cleared land purchased of James Thomas now deceased," which was left to her son, John Baynard Thomas, by his father. John B. Thomas acquired 106 acres more of "Winfield" from the trustee of the real estate of Richard Legg in 1842. The dwelling now called the Thomas House is mentioned in 1879 (and until at least 1967) as standing on the "Home Farm of the late John B. Thomas," comprised of parts of "Hawkins Pharsalia," "Thomas' Addition," and "Winfield."<sup>(3)</sup>

The Thomas House is not on the Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798 for Queen Anne's County. The "Winfield" tracts are listed on the assessment in Tuckahoe Hundred under the ownership of James Thomas and a Dr. John Thomas. There is a house on each of their properties, but both are 1 1/2 story frame buildings.<sup>(4)</sup> The Thomas House was thus built after 1798, either by James Thomas, Sr., between 1798 and 1807; James Thomas, Jr., between 1807 and 1813; or (Dr.) John Thomas, between 1813 and 1821.

The Thomases were typical members of Tidewater Maryland's eighteenth and early nineteenth century society. All of the men mentioned above were planters, with the possible exception of Dr. John Thomas, although

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.3 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

it is likely that he farmed also. James Thomas held four slaves according to the 1790 federal census, which was about the average number for that half of the population who owned slaves. Thomas' home, as described in the 1798 tax assessment, was a framed dwelling with two brick chimneys, 34' x 18', with three windows, valued at \$200. This was again an average sized house for a person of his economic position, i.e., although by no means wealthy, comfortable and better off than the majority of planters at the time.

From this economic background came, with the economic stabilization after the formation of the new nation, the means and desire to build a dwelling such as the Thomas House. Quite a larger building than the frame one of the eighteenth century, it is also constructed of the more durable building material of brick. Its style is that of a Federal townhouse popular in the towns and cities of that day, reflecting an effort of the part of its builder to be fashionable.

This latter fact may be one clue pointing to Dr. John Thomas as the builder of the house. A well-known man in the county from the third quarter of the eighteenth century, he owned several lots in Centreville

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

and may have desired to move to a country home whose style would reflect his position.

John B. Thomas, mid-nineteenth century occupant of the house, was also an active resident of Queen Anne's County. He was a trustee of the county alms-house, an inspector of primary schools, a commissioner for a railroad to be built from Queen Anne's to Cecil County, and a commissioner for the organization of a bank in Centreville. He also served several terms in the state legislature and was a member of the county committee appointed to take charge in the secession crisis of 1861.<sup>(5)</sup> The Thomas House property remained in his family until 1928.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas House is a substantial house of the Federal period, solidly and well built. It has what is essentially a four-square plan in a form that successfully combines a townhouse with rural vernacular forms. The woodwork on both exterior and interior is of good quality, finely executed. The exterior cornice work is particularly good and largely intact. The interior woodwork is about 95% intact, the mantels, paneled recesses, and stair being among the finer details. A unique feature in the dining room chamber is a waist-high door in front of the enclosed stair; this has not been found in any other Eastern Shore building to date.

Two barns also stand on this property. One is of early 19th century date of hewn frame, the other is a shed of later date. Both are in poor repair.



## FOOTNOTES

- (1) Patented Certificates 1167 and 1169, Queen Anne's County Deed RT H/315.
- (2) Queen Anne's County Will WHN 2/325.
- (3) Queen Anne's County Wills WHN 4/315 and TCE 2/61 and Queen Anne's County Deeds JB 2/144, JT 2/369, JT 2/371, JT 2/372, JT 3/500, JW 9/212, JEG 2/434, BHT 8/391, TSP 70/62, and CWC 28/446.
- (4) Federal Direct Tax Assessment for 1798, Tuckahoe Hundred, Queen Anne's County, Maryland.
- (5) Frederic Emory, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, . . . (Reprint of 1886 ed.; Baltimore, Maryland: Maryland Historical Society, 1950).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, and the  
Queen Anne's County Courthouse, Centreville, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 acres

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural Historian pmj

Pamela M. James, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION DATE  
Maryland Historical Society July 1975

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE  
21 State Circle (301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN STATE  
Annapolis Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 9.1 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

First Census of the United States, 1790, Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, Tuckahoe Hundred, Queen Anne's County. Land Records and Patented Certificates, Queen Anne's County. Probate Records of Queen Anne's County.


## SECONDARY SOURCES

Emory, Frederic. Queen Anne's County, Maryland, Its Early History and Development. Reprint of 1886-1887 ed. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934.

Spencer, Richard Henry. Thomas Family of Talbot County, Maryland, and Allied Families. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co., 1914.

Thomas, Lawrence Buckley, D.D. The Thomas Book . . . . New York: Henry T. Thomas Co., 1896.

1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Queen Anne's</b> TOWN <b>BRIDGEVILLE</b> VICINITY STREET NO. <b>Ruthsburg-Bridgeville Rd.</b>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>Q.A. - 8</b>	
ORIGINAL OWNER <b>Thomas family</b> ORIGINAL USE <b>Dwelling</b> PRESENT OWNER <b>Mr. Aldy Dean</b> PRESENT USE <b>Vacant</b> WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>Brick</b> NO. OF STORIES <b>2</b>		2. NAME <b>THOMAS HOUSE</b> DATE OR PERIOD <b>1795</b> STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p>The Thomas House, located in a field on the Ruthsburg-Bridgeville road in Queen Anne's County, is a late 18th century house of grand scale. This building appears to be five bays long as seen from the front. The two bays towards the north are on a smaller scale than the other three bays. The entire structure was built at one time but it gives the appearance of being built in stages. The building is constructed of over-size brick. The west facade and the south gable-end are laid in Flemish bond. The others are laid in common bond. In appearance this building resembles a "town-house", with a two story smaller wing. The facade has a central door flanked by two windows. The windows south of the door are larger than those to the north of the door. The door itself is made of six raised panels, it has a semicircular fanlight with tracery and strapwork between the fanlight and the door. Both door sills are made of stone. The cornice of the main three bays is composed of modillions and dentils, and this cornice returns upon itself on the south gable end. The cornice of the other two bays is a boxed affair with crown molding. There are flat arches over the windows (six over nine lights in the main section and six over six in the lower portion). The basement windows have what remains of a few iron bars. On the south gable there are two windows on each floor, between the two chimneys. The door on the rear of the house has crosset trim, and above it is a small six over six window at the stairway landing.</p> <p>The floor plan is designed with a stair hall through the center of the building, with two large rooms to the south and a smaller room to the north, down two steps from the hall. (cont'd next page)</p>		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>NO</b>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    Interior    Exterior <u>CONDITION - Poor</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <b>(see page No. 2)</b>		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <b>Michael O. Bourne</b> <b>29 January 1968</b> DATE OF RECORD	

## THOMAS HOUSE

(cont'd from page one)

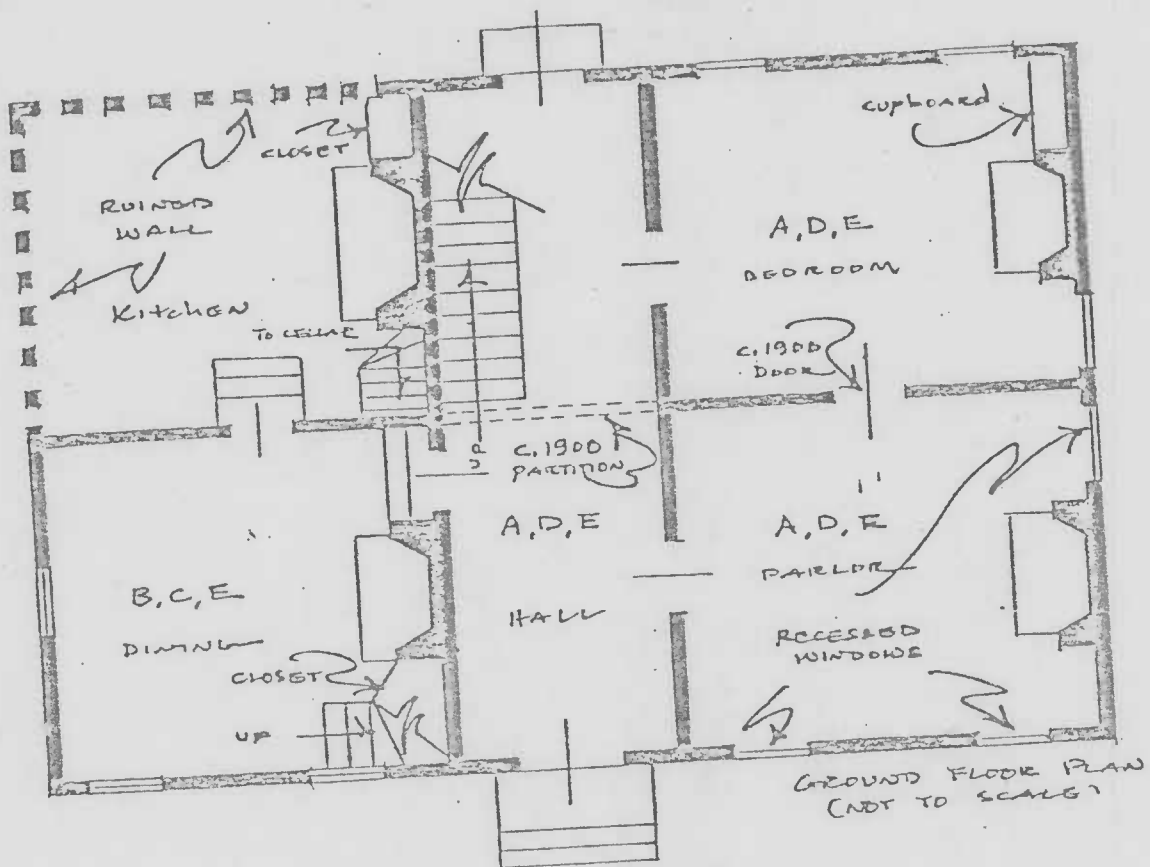
The kitchen is located three steps down from this last room, and is covered with a leanto roof. It is only one story high.

The dining room has a panelled fireplace wall, and a staircase to the room above. Most of the woodwork remains intact throughout the house, and is extremely plain.

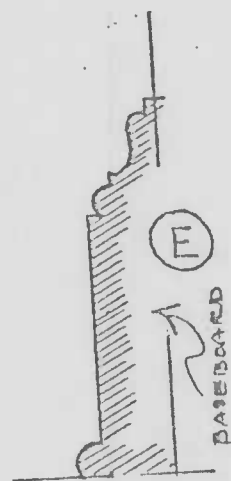
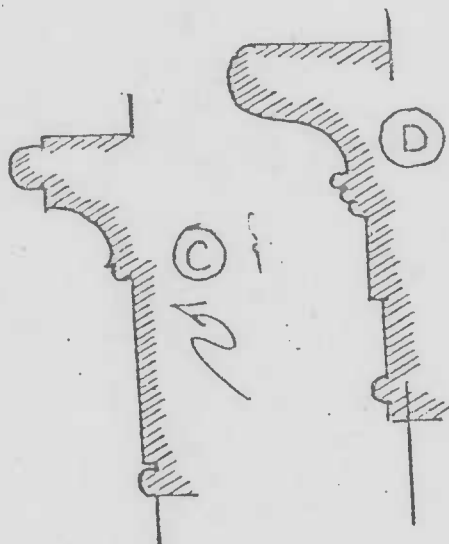
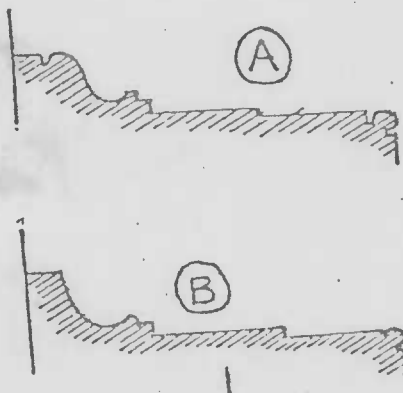
8. Published sources:

Forman, Henry Chandlee: Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland

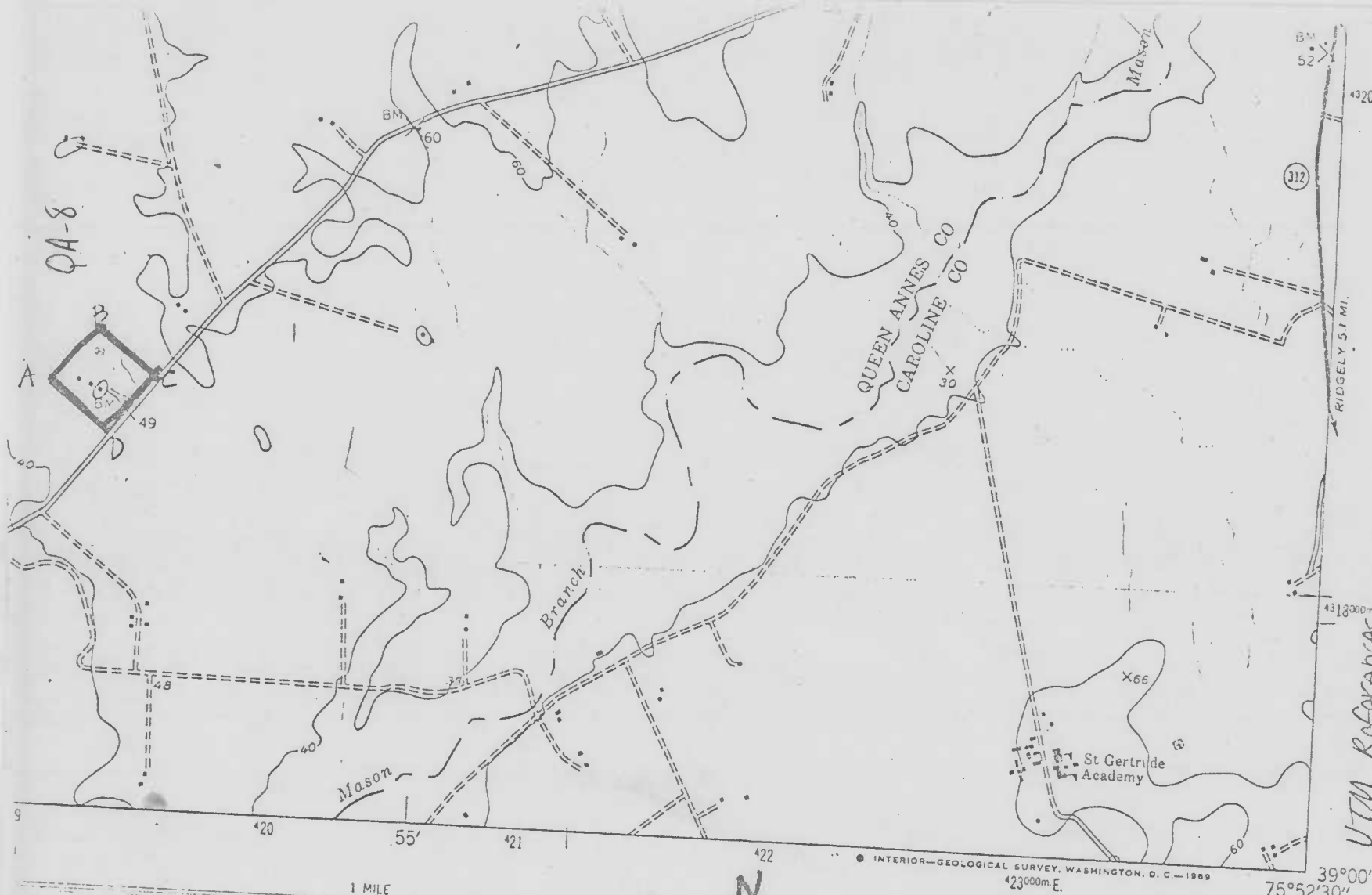
Privately printed, 1934 p201



MOLDING PROFILES:  
(NOT TO SCALE)



THE THOMAS HOUSE  
RUTHSBURG VIC., QUEEN ANNE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
DRAWING 7/75

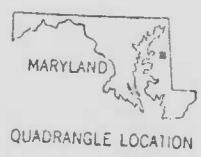


Thomas House

UTM References  
 A 18/419150/4318620  
 B 18/419320/4318830  
 C 18/419560/4318660  
 D 18/419380/4318440

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty —————
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- State Route ○



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

PRICE, MD.

SW/4 BARCLAY 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3900-W7552.5/7.5

1944

AMS 5862 III SW-SERIES V833

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 BOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QA-8

Thomas House

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT







THOMAS HOUSE, QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Q.A.-8

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

MOB 3/68

pg 1



Thomas House

Q.A. 8

Q.A. Co.

Kitchen stain

1/77 AC